Depot Town Rag

Volume 17, Number 9 *"All the news in one block in one month."*

100% FREE
Rag Content
September 1994

- Hucksterism & Slogans
- **Press Notes in history**
- *Changes on the block*
- **Death Trip IV**
- Charter Proposal Misses
- **Back to School at EMU**

and other strictly local stuff. . . .

A Publication of the DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Old Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

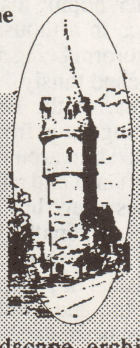
HERITAGE BLUES PARTY!

FREE!
on the Market Plaza stage for Heritage Festival down in Depot Town

Friday, August 19
6:30 **The Ambassadors**
9:15 **The Howling Diablos**

Saturday, August 20
6:30 **The II-V-I Orchestra**
9:30 **Steve Sommers & Lady Sunshine**

Victorian sensibilities addressed Our Town's monument



In 1913, famed landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted wrote of the infamous monument in Our Town: "The water tower in Ypsilanti is an imposing shaft of stone but is now surmounted by an ill-proportioned wooden dome. It would be somewhat difficult to make this a well-proportioned feature, as at best the column must be too short for so tall a top structure; but it would be possible, by removing the extra platform beneath the drum, by corbeling out under the drum, and by altering the form of the roof, to make a much more agreeable object of this prominent and dominating structure. The accompanying sketch [above]suggests one possible treatment, but is intended as a suggestion only, for this is a matter worthy of careful study by an architect of the best artistic judgment."

Apparently none was available, since all of Olmsted's recommendations for Ypsilanti were ignored at that time.

Revealed in popular poll:

Unity & Diversity abound in Ypsi . . .

Last month's call for 'bigger historical monuments' in the form of "The Seven Wonders of Ypsilanti" gave us more material than we could possibly print - and stay out of jail - and we only hint at the broadsides in the list below.

Traditional out-size tourist monuments were suggested by many:

- Bunyonesque sculpture of Elija McCoy holding his famed pneumatic-coupler-gadget above his head with the inscription, "It's the REAL McCOY™!".
- Giant working model of the two-stroke engine they used to make in the Ypsi High shop classes with "YPSI" emblazoned on the side. (An Antique Engine Club nomination.)
- Two-headed *papier maché* model of the Tucker automobile (way up high on steel poles so no one could paint graffiti on it) with the center headlights oscilating beacon-like up and down the east/west lanes of I-94. (GM would probably fight this innovation.)

Others included a floral clock with "YPSILANTI" spelled in several of the popular wrong ways, a Riverside Park sculpture garden, a DNA molecule/exhibit, the view from the Radisson on the Lake, EMU's reflecting pond, and the historic structures all around town. Heritage Fest and the Festival of Lights were also nominated. A sculpture of planes, trains, autos and boats was suggested - and an electronic sign showing the daily grade point average of a typical EMU student was proposed.

Another wanted to see overdressed robots of those darling little girls who used to hand out 'nosegays' at the depot singing Disney's immortal "It's a Small Town, After All!"

Eight more foot bridges over the Huron River from Cross Street to Michigan Avenue were suggested, adding 'PSILANTI' to the existing 'Y' tridge that now connects the district and two City parks.

Politicians' resiliency, a Museum of Education, Grecian themes and the official City song also made the list of local uniquenesses to commemorate.

The top seven local wonders in last month's poll - which read more like a Ripley's Believe-it-or-Not! column of civic contradictions, cunundrums, and paradoxes - suggest a new city motto. "Ypsilanti: Hard to spell . . . and just as hard to understand."

1. The Yankee Air Force Base situated in the midst of southern rebels in exile!

2. Depot Town district named for abandoned building where the train never stops!

3. Frog Island bordered by water on only one side and not an island at all!

4. Phallic water tower curiously envied by Freudians of Ann Arbor!

5. Willow Run waterway paved over to land giant freight airplanes!

6. Ford Lake, county's largest, bounded by City which abandoned recreational access to it and is blocked by a factory and highway!

7. Community Access channel on cable TV which gives *no* access to *this* community even though it's paid for!

It's Organic Harvest Month

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op will feature plenty of oganically grown produce and organically grown coffees during the month of September.

"Organic" refers to how the food is produced. It is a system of farming that maintains and replenishes the fertility of the soil. Organic foods are produced without the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, and are minimally processed to maintain the integrity of the food without artificial ingredients, preservatives or irradiation.

Cooking Encounters: Saturday, September 14, 11 am - 3 pm, "How to Grill Vegetables" with samples made from organic produce. We will have information about the benefits of organic farming and eating organic foods.

Organic coffees sampled every day.

Orientation: Wednesday, September 7, 2pm.

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op is located at 312 N. River Street in Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town. For more information call 483-1520.

EMU Continuing Education
Depot Town Center

32 E. Cross St.

Depot Town Short Courses

Mondays: Sept. 19, 26, Oct. 3, 10

- Restoring Historic Buildings
- Communicating Effectively in the Workplace

Oct. 31, Nov 7, 14, 21

- Musical Theatre: Only in America
- Gender Communication: Workplace Challenges

Tuesdays: Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22

- Opera: Where Theatre and Music Meet
- Giving Back: Incorporating Community Service into Your Life

Wednesdays: September 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12

- Jazz in America
- Critical Thinking: Separating Fact from Fiction in the News

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23

- UFOs: The Facts from a National Expert
- What Thinking People Need to Know About Genetic Engineering

Thursdays: Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13

- The Challenge of Suburban Sprawl: Balancing Development with Preservation
- Gender Communication: Workplace Challenges

Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10

- Hold That Tiger: Understanding Male Behavior
- Communicating Effectively with Those Who Are Different From You

Food for Thought Series

- **Integrity: Ethics and Sportsmanship in Sports**, September 20, Dr. William E. Shelton, President of EMU
- **The Alaska Native Tribes: What We Can Learn from Them**, September 27, Dr. Robert Kraft
- **Living with Persons with Special Needs: Infants to Elders**, October 4, Dr. Dale Rice
- **Understanding the Important Science of Our Times**, October 11, Dr. Paul McKelvey
- **Elections in South Africa: Free at Last**, October 18, Paquetta Palmer
- **A Return to Ethical Conduct through Building Character**, October 25, Wayne Hanewitz

PLUS: LaRon Williams, Storyteller
7-9 pm, Friday, October 14

For more information call 487-0407 or 487-6815

James Thomas Mann's Depot Town Death Trip

from early accounts in *The Ypsilanti Commercial*
Part IV

19 September 1874
- Narrow Escapes
Number One:

Lieut. Halleck and W.R.Davis were detained in Detroit by business last week Thursday. They obtained an order from Superintendent Hurd to have the Pacific Express stopped at our depot. The order was handed to the conductor. Before reaching the city he arranged with them to jump off without bringing the train to a full stop. They put themselves in readiness to jump, but the train was running so fast that they did not hunger after the job. Halleck jumped, and getting a good headway, managed like "Dominick lean" to strike on his feet, though making fleet motions to keep upright. Davis hesitated, but seeing that Halleck came out all right, he also tried it on. Being thicker set, became balky, like "Bonniface fat," he came down, not on his feet, but on his shoulder, hurting him badly. He had indeed a narrow escape for his life. Nothing but a case of life or death should induce a person to take their chances in jumping from a train in motion. In this case one more tumble, or even the throwing out of an arm or leg, would have rendered a necessary job of amputation, if not an actual loss of life. There is a little confusion as to giving the order to jump. The conductor says he said, "Don't jump." Halleck and Davis persist that he said, "Now jump." We sincerely hope that the Superintendent will see the importance of having that night train stop at this point, and issue an order accordingly. Davis is around, though battered up, and don't propose to lose a good trade this Fall in elegant boots and shoes. [Davis' store was at today's site of Miller's Ice Cream Parlor.]

Number Two:

Mr. George Moore of Ann Arbor, and Miss Matie Hascall, also her brother George and lady, in another carriage, were a few days since on their way to Whitmore Lake. At the deep cut a mile north of Ann Arbor, near the Central track, hearing an approaching train, they stopped. The train came thundering on, and the whistle uttering one of its very loudest, shrill shrieks. George Moore's horse being just behind Hascall's, was badly frightened, and jumped, throwing the buggy with such force against Hascall's as to turn his (Moore's) upside down, and threw him and Miss Matie out. Both were badly hurt. Matie is laid up with a sprained ankle, and the doctor says it will be some time before she can resume the postponed excursion to Whitmore Lake. "Look out for the cars when the bell rings," though this is said to be a very bad place, even when looking out for danger.

14 November 1874
- A Sad Event

Last Sunday afternoon about half past three p.m., Willie a little son of John Mallion, was run over and hurt so badly as to die about ten o'clock that night. His father says that Willie had been absent from the house about twenty minutes when a little boy came in exclaiming, Willie has been run over by the cars. He and his wife ran, and sure enough near the track opposite the elevator, lay the little fellow, with an arm just above the elbow joint off, and a leg cut off twice and badly mangled. He had raised upon the only knee he had, holding himself up by the use of his only whole arm. The father took the boy in his arms and carried him to the house in the rear of Champion's Drug Store. During the five minutes before the father came, the spectators say that it was a terrible sight, to see the little boy attempting to rise. It caused the strongest to faint, and the tearful eye turned aghast at the heart rending spectacle. In a few minutes we heard of the calamity, and went over. The boy lay on a lounge, and only a brief survey of his mangled form told the story that his doom was sealed. We went up on the track, and there lay the remnant of the arm, and the little hand and foot. Mr. Henry M. Smith, soon took them up and carried them to the house, and they were buried with the body. The nervous shock was so great that he did not recover from it, and hence no reaction took place. Drs. Kinne and Owen at the earnest request of the father and mother, hoping that there might be at least one chance in a thousand, amputated the limbs, chloroform being administered. The accident happened thusly. The boy jumped upon the way car of the Blue Line Express in front. Jumping down from the steps his coat caught, whirled him around, under the wheels, taking off left arm and a foot. It is supposed that his clothes drew his leg still further under the wheel diagonally, mangling it and nearly severing it above the knee. Mr.M. had taken a great deal of pains to keep his son away from the cars, and as he was carrying him to the house, he said, "You know how often I have warned you of this Willie," "I know you did papa," was the reply. "Is my arm cut off?" said the little fellow. He besought his mother not to cry. Willie was an only child, and his loss, especially under such circumstances sinks deep down into the hearts of his parents. Willie was beloved by his teacher, and a great lover of his books. A bright boy.

We hear that even after this solemn warning, boys are yet jumping on to passing trains. We advise the immediate passage of an ordinance, authorizing the railroad men to arrest the boys, and for the second offense send a boy to the Reform School at Lansing. Parents are to blame. They must second the authorities, and if nothing else will do, spare not the rod. Mr. Wheeler the Superintendent has been pained and pestered, finding all his efforts to break up the risky nuisance unavailing.

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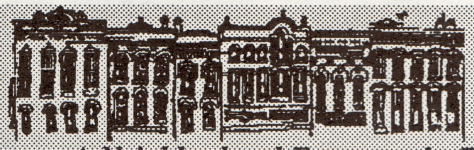


Dateline: Depot Town

A Neighborhood Forgotten by Time (and Life and Newsweek)

Changes on the north side

The end of summer always seems to see shuffling on the sidewalk down at the depot and then the kiosk directory needs updating again. Last year saw Remington/Walker move down the street and expand to its sumptuous new quarters. This fall will see three more businesses adjusting to their successful growth in Depot Town:

Karen Brenner's **Winding River Originals** will move into spaces at the newly re-done **Renewed Interest Antiques** at 33 East Cross and Linda Lister will expand her **Depot Doo** hair salon into the former Winding River property at 23 East Cross.

Linda indicates the demand for more room for hair, nails, and tanning beds led her to begin looking for larger - or new - space more than a year ago and expanding into the next door storefront seemed an ideal solution.

Karen's move to the antique venue will certainly show much of her antique wares well, and the original art works will be artfully placed in Roger and Judy Julie's newly refurbished shop. Two floors of antiques and orginal art works will be a big draw for sidewalk shopping traffic in the fall season.

With all this moving traffic up and down the walk on the north side of Cross Street, some predict it will look like Ypsilanti's having another of its seasonal parades.

Apartments, too! Every fall sees a shuffle of apartment dwellers on this block. A year ago the "Depot Town Clearning House" was discontinued, since there was such a waiting list for every living space in the block. That success continues and, if you don't know who's planning to move, you may never get on the waiting list. It's the price of success.

City Charter Commission missed some opportunities

Ypsilanti's City Charter being updated by a local commission elected to suggest ways to streamline, improve, and facilitate Our Town's way of doing business. Many already-elected officials seem sour about the proposals, probably due to the plethora of suggestions that could either run them out of office or at least limit time spent at the public trough. Longer terms and fewer elections don't seem terribly popular with them.

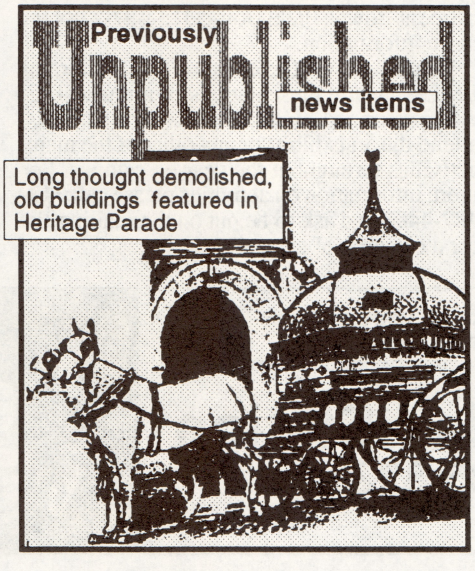
A quick perusal of the Charter Proposal shows several items may have been overlookedin the reacent up-date:

- No one bothered to mention giving back to the Cable TV subscribers the hundreds of thousands of dollars that could have gone into a local community access channel. These funds will continue to be sopped up by the City's and Townships' general funds while Ypsi folks watch Ann Arbor's kids and councils on four channels.
- What happened to the idea of taking over both Superior and Ypsilanti Townships and making one big rectangular City Of Ypsilanti on the map of Michigan? Did even the Charter Commission fall prey to the local carving of fiefs and cover their proprietary rights-of-way? Maybe in the next revision.

Some other Charter amendments many would like to see:

- A proposal for the taxpayers of the State of Michigan to build a new Tiger Stadium on Frog Island because it would be good for business and the wealthy ball players could spend their millions right here in Depot Town.
- Three-cornered hats and sashes for Councilmembers to wear while carrying the ceremonial mayor's sedan chair in parades.

November's election will decide if these changes are good enough for Ypsilanti.



Ypsi Press/AA News: take note

Newspaper problems nothing new here

The Ypsilanti Commercial,

3 September 1883

Can't Brag

When the Ann Arbor papers glory over the press in this city they glory in their own shame. Ypsilanti is not alone in having printing office elephants on hand. There are not less than three printing offices in Ann Arbor whose owners groan over their annual losses, lifting their vain prayers to heaven for help to shake off the intolerable burden. It pinches and hurts wealthy men like Beal and Frothingham to lose money as well as us poor fellows, and even worse. Jay Gould got his fingers burned and could be sooner induced to handle molten lava than another newspaper enterprise.

Saturday, 7 August 1880

Personals

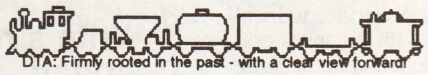
An old citizen at the depot called us [to] one side Thursday monring to speak to us on a certain matter. After finishing he said, "Why don't you newspaper men have the boldness to come out and attack nuisances?" We told him that was our business when any good could be accomplished by so doing. He told us that a certain house of ill fame in an alley at the depot had become a public nuisance and should be looked after by the officers of the law. A petition was sent the council some time since in regard to the matter, but nothing was done about it. Persons living near there say that young men are seen entering there at all times of day. Where is the moral sentiment of the community?

7 January 1882

House of ill repute is burned

For some time past respectable people at the depot have been wishing that some one would devise means to rid the neighborhood of a "house" kept by Eliza Potter. Fire did the job Friday morning about two o'clock, and what used to be the old "Washtenaw Exchange" in the alley, in the rear of Neat's grocery store, stands a wreck [south side of Cross, between Cady's Grill and the river]. The alley is filled with tenement houses mostly occupied by negroes, and had it not been a still night the fire would have made a sweep. The steamer saved a portion of the house and Alvah Reynolds' wood yard adjoining was uninjured. A supply of water was obtained near Ferrier's machine shop, and from the river. Eliza Potter says that two men came and demanded admittance. She refused. They threatened to burn the house and went to the rear, returning to the front door and telling what they had done. Kerosene or naptha must have been used for the fire spread so rapidly that nothing was saved but a few articles of furniture from the first floor. The two girls lost their wardrobes. One of them had an extensive outfit. A colored man, Henry Miller, and family occupying the north wing of the house saved most of their goods. The building was owned by W.W.Phillips and insured for $500. No insurance on contents.

Depot Town Association, Thursday, 21 July 1994



Minutes of June's meeting were approved as published.

Treasury holds $7,422.13 with $900 in Frog Island ads still to come in. Chamber of Commerce dues were paid for the year.

Rag Report: August, September and October issues were reviewed. An error in August's issue dropped three paid ads which will be extended another month.

No report from the **Farmers' Market** advisory committee.

Merchants Report: Sandee French reports some payments for the Cable TV ad are still due. The commerical begins to air on CNN, A&E, and Lifetime channels August 1st.

Heritage Festival: Linda French reported 60 booths organized by Linda Bowen for the street. They will include fudge, lemonade, country karaoke, tattoos, body piercing, antique cars, Michigan products and more. Electrical hook-ups are still being sought.

Carolyn McKeever created this year's T-shirt/poster quilt theme design, says Budweiser will be the distributor for the YHF beer tents. Still need bar volunteers for early Saturday. Blues show program is still pending; Ambassadors are on for 6-9 Friday, 2-5-1 Orchestra for 6-9 Saturday.

Concerts in the Park: Linda French reported brother David's production of Big Dave and the Ultra Sonics at the Frog Island amphitheater from 4-8 p.m. Sunday, July 31 at $5 per person. A play is being produced at the Riverside Art Center (Masonic Temple) for Heritage Fest. More concerts may follow.

Nominations for Office: Sandee French will chair the nominating committee for the September annual DTA elections of President Elect, Treasurer and Secretary.

Next Meeting is 7:30 p.m., Thursday, August 11 at the Old Caboose - a week earlier due to the Heritage Festival kick-off party.

Cable Ad shows the district well

Most locals have gotten over the thrill of seeing themselves on television and are now thrilling to reports of others who've seen the district hyped on the Cable TV commercial produced earlier this summer. It's strange how we love to see our most familiar environs on the tube. It seems a validating experience to see how we look to other people who don't know us so well.

They're certainly going to know us now - after all those artful video shots being broadcast throughout the Cable TV franchises.

Quick, generic shots of life down at the depot are featured on the CNN Headline News channel, on the Arts & Entertainment Channel and on the Lifetime Channel and positive reports have come from all over the Omnicon broadcast area, as well, including Belleville.

Quick and dynamic shots feature the Farmers' Market, life on the streets, and Jack Miller's Hudson automibiles. Three times the announcer lets it be known that it's "Depot Town" we're experiencing and the remainder of the flic is short, artsy shots of the commercial life of the district backed by an up-beat and peppy musical theme.

All who've seen the new ad agree that it presents this commercial district in a most positive and friendly manner and has been an appropriate public relations tool for the area.

Those who financially supported the venture are to be heartily congratulated for their positive and enthusiastic presentation.

Lots of 'class' exhibited

Not many years ago, Depot Town's 'class' was too often described as 'low class.' Then, with the advent of historic preservation, antique shops and street festivals celebrating antiquity, the district rose to 'tourist class. And now, due to the always-growing display of school memorabilia displayed on the walls at Cady's Grill, the theme has graduated to become the 'senior class!'

When Sandee and Bill French expanded their Old Town Café next door into Cady's Grill last year, they chose the memorabilia of the local high schools as their theme - and loyal customers did the rest. Today, the walls are covered with class photos, yearbook pages, sports and cheerleaders' uniforms, and countless images of the Future Teachers' Club, Miss Grundy's 8th grade homeroom, the Drum and Bugle Corps, or the Safety Squad.

The exhibited works have become a magnet of memories for the many who still value their own good old days. August 6th saw a gala class reunion in the district as Ypsilanti High School's class of 1974 descended upon the block to remember their own times and still more momentoes were hung on the walls around this old district.

The Frenches indicate there's still room for more old school stuff on their walls and encourage grads to bring in more recollections of Ypsilanti, Roosevelt, Lincoln, and Willow Run Schools.

After all, where else can we see such a collection of frightfully thin people with so much thick and healthy hair? Look! That was Jim MacDonald on the football team!!!

Strictly local stuff:

September 1994

Depot Towners are invited to participate in any or all of the following activities for the good of this old commercial district:

- **Depot Town Association**
  Monthly Meeting
  7:30 p.m., Thursday, 9/15
  The Old Caboose
- **Depot Town Antique Engine Club**
  7:30 pm Thursday , 9/22
  at the Freighthouse Coffeeshop

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc. a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate. -Tom Dodd, editor

The Depot Town Association, Inc.
Judi D. Monaghan, president
c/o The Old Caboose
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Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

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Hometown hucksterism pays off

There are some who say the annual Heritage Fest held in our streets does a disservice to local history. They claim there are many events and displays that have nothing to do with our ancestors' lives and the shindig has become a gross display of greed and novelty. These malcontents brag about 'leaving town for that weekend in August' as if they were Ann Arborites jaded from the annual Art Fairs and Hash Bashes that clog their weakend arteries. (It's curious: While Capistrano gets swallows, all AA can seem to get to return every spring is Nazis and dopers. Meanwhile, they emphasize the fact that they haven't cut down all their trees yet.)

More up-beat locals say the positive effect of that weekend of hoopla in Ypsi has been good for business, good for public relations, and good, cheap fun for families. "It's the American Way," they postulate.

The most persistent compliment heard down by the depot after the Heritage Hysteria has to do with the fact that so many folks hadn't yet discovered us, and they were surprised to find us so authentic and friendly. They pledge to come back - when it's not so crowded - and they do! Every year since the Heritage Fest began, sidewalk traffic has increased throughout the year.

When the first Ypsilanti Heritage Festival was being planned, there was great effort put into trying to convince non-profit fund-raisers to focus their attention on the same weekend. The cook-outs, information booths, and raffles would get more attention by more people if they all happened at once, they reasoned. Some organizations held out for a few years to study the crowd phenomenon but, eventually, all acquiesced and joined the promotional mob.

Knowing full well that a *pessimist* is usually the person who lives with the *optimist*, there will always be someone on the block who says the Heritage Fest actually *diminished* their business for the weekend. Perhaps they could move to the Gault Village Shopping Center where that's not been a problem lately.

"Friendly, foreign, familiar and - near!"
- Ontario Tourist Board

"SI QUAERIS PENINSULAM AMOENAM CIRCUMSPICE"
("If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look around you!") -State of Michigan

"My folks went to Florida and all I got was this darned T-shirt."
- garage sale T-shirt in America

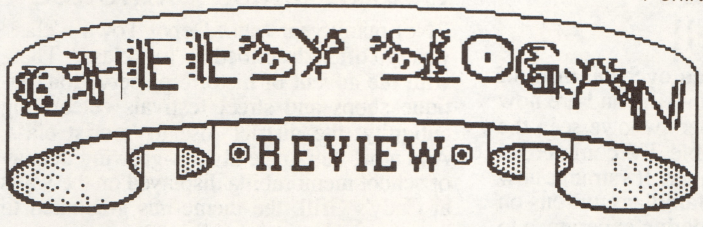
"My kid can kick your honor student's butt"
- bumper sticker on a rusty van in Livonia

"Don't hassle me; I'm a local"
- T-shirt down in Depot Town

Responses to request for local mispronunciations:

- "*Eye-talian* dressing on your salad?"
- "*Nuqular*" for nuclear (new clear)!
- "I work *to Fords*"
- "...going shopping at *K-Martz*"
- Local TV weatherman noting the prevalence of rain on a summer weekend: "... but don't let a small shower *'dee-ter* you."

It seems nobody bothers to correct folks from *Delhi, Saline* or *Milan* on the pronunciations of their community's names. They can pronounces them any way they like; it's a free country, isn't it?



Send your local slogan today to:
Cheese!
c/o The Old Caboose,
400 Marketplace,
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

It's "Let's Have Bigger And Better Slogans" Month!

The American entreprenurial spirit is alive and well and best shown through its ingenuity at making up dorky slogans to convince people to buy something without much thinking.

Ypsilanti has taken noble stabs at such mottoes over the years. A quarter of a century ago the City emblazoned **"Where Commerce and Education Meet"** and even the Chamber of Commerce picked up on it. But the schools didn't. The several public schools and the university just kept on having classes and hardly noticed the businesses until they went into the sports business, themselves. The slogan disappeared as fast as a personal property tax form.

Several Mayors and City Managers ago we stole the motto of Richard Daley's Chicago and told the world that Ypsi was **"The City That Works."** That was before the closing of the GM plant at Willow Run.

Depot Town, too, has coined phrases and slogans. While hustling financial backing to bring the old caboose to the district, they published: **"DTA: Firmly Rooted In The Past - With A Clear View Forward."** It was nearly as long as a passing freight train, but seemed appropriate when printed above the hundred-year-old caboose headquarters.

"Follow Your Nose To Depot Town," said some snotty Ann Arborites in their version, when they bicycled here and parked in back of our stores in the days when the dumpsters were stashed too close to the entrances. All that's changed now.

DTA's oft-repeated slogan on directories and pamphlets is **"Depot Town *IS* What America *WAS*,"** but that was lifted from the State of Nebraska's tie-in with the NASA program. Locals figured, if those stoic Nebraskans could force a relationship like that, so could they.

Even DTA's most recent promotional broadside suggested **"A little business down by the depot - AND THE REST IS HISTORY."** The latter portion was borrowed from a local Chamber of Commerce billboard on I-75 on the way to Florida one winter. It seemed to fit here, as well, since everybody seemed to be looking for their historical roots in the old railroad district.

Heritage Festival has been no stranger to sloganeering. This year's motto: **"A Patchwork of Unity and Diversity,"** played with the quilt theme, but didn't put much emphasis on the social implications. Ypsilanti's subtle racism has seemed to parallel the nation's, even with all those ethnic restaurants and Greek plays. The memorial to Elijah McCoy calls attention to a famous African-American, but a Festival to commemorate the local stations of the Underground Railroad has been in the 'idea stage' for a long, long time, now.

The Rag sticks with its shallow monicker, **"All The News In One Block In One Month,"** and wonders how it could handle the action if we were a block longer or (heaven forbid!) weekly or even daily. People just keep telling their stories and the editors jams them into the computer.

The Farmers' Market carries an excellent slogan on their coffeeshop wall: **"Tourists Treated The Same As Home Folks."** That simple phrase seems to be the best yet.

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A Depot Town SAMPLER

Back to school at 'The Normal'

Here it is fall already and with that comes the beautiful fall colors, school time shopping sprees and start-up and lots of social, athletic and academic activities that go along with it. Never let it be said that **Eastern Michigan University** couldn't come up with some of the best activities, starting with their participation in Heritage Festival!

Eastern's 'booth' this year is the new Continuing Education Center at 32 E. Cross. There is a **Poster Contest** for youngsters of various ages with prizes for the winners and lots of great give-aways. Along with that there are terrific T-shirts, and raffle tickets for sale plus a few other things going on. You'll want to be sure and stop by.

The winners of the poster contest will be announced at the Miami vs. Eastern football game on **Family Weekend**. Now that's an event you won't want to miss! There will be music, clowns, magic, virtual reality and all sorts of other great activities. Be sure to check next month's *Rag* to find out more about this great two-day event!

Of course, there's the fabulous football right here at Rynearson Stadium. The excitement begins with **Central Michigan University** on September 17 at 12:30 p.m. The 24th of September is Eastern's **Homecoming** game against **Bowling Green** beginning at 4 p.m. All the usual festivities related to Homecoming will be going on throughout the day. October 1 is the fantastic **Family Weekend / Academic Expo / Youth Learning Fair** topped off by the Eastern vs. **Miami of Ohio** game at 4 p.m. And - just to make it more exciting - it's also **Band Day**!!! Another early-bird game begining at 12:30 p.m. is scheduled with **Akron** and, to finish off the home game season, at 12:30 p.m. on November 19 Eastern will meet the **University of Toledo** in combat. These are just the home games. For lots of fun and excitement you can also go on the road; just call the ticket office at Bowen Field House **313-487-2282** for more information.

You might want to come to one or more of EMU's theatre presentations or a musical recital performed by talented Eastern students, attend the art exhibits or any other of the many activities throughout the year on campus. For more information on activities please call **313-487-4400** and ask to be put on the mailing list for a calendar of events.

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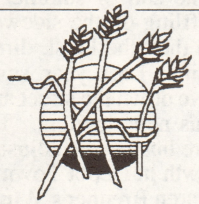
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